

## Spiritual Thais Gives Jeritza New Triumph

Venuese Prima Donna Steps Into Role of Garden and Farrar at Metropolitan With Dramatic Effect

The Contrast Is Striking

Her Courtesan of Alexandria Sung With Deepest of Emotion, Yet Is Decorous

By H. E. Krehbiel

The Thais who first got into literature was a Greek woman concerning whose moral character there was never a doubt and who made her name famous (or infamous) by inciting Alexander the Great, when he was drunk and in an enterprising mood, to burn the palace of the Persian kings at Persepolis. Whether or not she changed from stoicism to sanctity, as did her namesake, created by Anatole France, who made her an Alexandrine courtesan of the early Christian period, we do not know. In fact, the historian of her name is not clear when she was sharing Alexander's Asiatic campaign—has no credit (according to the "credibility" study such things) and every schoolboy has the privilege of doubting whether she ever lived, or whether if she lived she made an honest man out of one of the Ptolemies by becoming the mother of some of his children.

Mary Garden's Original

We have no doubt, however, about the career of Francis Thais after she had been made the heroine of an opera by Louis Gallet and Jules Massenet. She was the original of Mary Garden when that lady first made a generous display of her pulchritude at the Metropolitan Opera House on November 29, 1905. Miss Garden successfully depicted her privilege of being the only Thais of Mr. Hammerstein's company against any effort of Mlle. Cavallieri to represent her, and enjoyed a monopoly of the character in New York (saving a single appearance of Mlle. Lavrenne, of the New Orleans Opera Company) down to February 16, 1917, when Miss Farrar threw her gay palmistry into the ring at the Metropolitan Opera House. Miss Farrar's interest in the part ended only two seasons, however, and since then the names of Garden and Thais have been synonymous. That is, we said Thais and thought Mary Garden until last night, when the fourth representative of the character placed herself in evidence at the Metropolitan. It was Mme. Jeritza who came, was seen and conquered.

Spiritual As Well As Fleshly

Madame Jeritza, however, differed somewhat from her predecessors. She not only gave greater pleasure to the eye than her predecessors, she was also heard with greater satisfaction, and by a splendid exhibition of histrionic powers she made a powerful appeal to the imagination and emotions of her listeners. It was possible while looking at and listening to her to think of other creatures of her kind than Thais, Phryne, Lais and Messalina. In short, to ponder a bit about women of the ancient world like Aspasia, with whom we believe Socrates held wise converse and who is supposed to have lent a hand to Pericles when he wrote the funeral oration which inspired the Athenians to sink into almost nothingness by a few sentences spoken on the field of Gettysburg. To put it more plainly Madame Jeritza's Thais was not all fleshly, but spiritual as well—her conversion after she had pleaded the cause of Venus to Athanasius was a tragic and moving exposition of woman's nature and sent a thrill through the audience like that produced by her climactic scene in "Tosca." There was the strength of conviction in it which made her death scene as plausible as it was

beautiful and pathetic. And despite the character which she was called upon to portray in the early scenes of the opera she never lost her sense of decorum and dignity.

Loveliness Personified

She was the personification of loveliness and grace in pose and carriage, and is nothing more gracious than in her insistence upon having a score of her many curtains called after the second and last acts with Mr. Whitehill, whose noble impersonation of Athanasius at the Metropolitan in the seasons from 1917 to 1919.

As for her singing, while it was better than that of her predecessors, it was not equal to the best which she has done in "Tosca" and "Lohengrin." For that fast Massenet is not altogether blameless, for he has made the singer sing difficult in the opera most of the music of which is tawdry. We cannot think highly of the chants of the growing convoluted, and the best melody is the opera, as well as the most effective, is that of the orchestral intermezzo, the ballet and the Oriental music to which Thais and Athanasius sing their dialogue at the end of the monk's vigil. The opera does not grow with hearing and must depend for the success which last night's performance assured upon its brilliant scenery, costumes, dances and the impersonation of its principal characters by Mme. Jeritza and Mr. Whitehill. The Greek man of the world, Nicias, is turned into a sentimental milkop by Mr. Harrold, who is always capable of fine things when he does not permit himself to be consumed by emotion. Theatregoers might be amused by seeing and hearing what "Rain" was like before Mr. Manahan turned "Thais" into a South Sea Island's story. Comment on other details can wait for a better occasion.



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## Sudreau Submits to Slander Suit Arrest; Cancels Trip Abroad

Husband of Jacques Lebaudy's Widow Files \$10,000 Bond in Chauffeur's Action on Alleged False Charges

Learning that there was an order of arrest against him in connection with a suit for slander, Henry Sudreau, whose wife was the widow of Jacques Lebaudy, one time "Emperor of the Sahara," surrendered himself to Deputy Sheriff Murphy yesterday and gave a bail bond of \$10,000 for his release. The plaintiff in the action is Julian Grosjean, formerly employed as a chauffeur by the defendant's wife when she still was Mrs. Lebaudy, who, suing for \$50,000 damages for alleged slander, says that Mr. Sudreau accused him of stealing Mrs. Lebaudy's jewelry, cash and some valuable papers.

Mr. Sudreau had engaged a suite on the steamship Paris, which sailed from this port Wednesday. Sheriff Percival E. Nagle went aboard the French vessel to arrest Mr. Sudreau, but learned that the defendant and his wife had canceled their passage. Paul E. De Fene, attorney for Mr. Sudreau, who had learned that his client was wanted at the Sheriff's office, induced him to surrender.

Mr. Sudreau says in his suit, which was begun in Nassau County on November 22, that on October 24, 1921, at the approval of Augustus Thomas, czar of the stage.

Mr. Sudreau, in the presence of the sheriff, police officers and private detectives, accused him of stealing a jewel case and its contents belonging to Mrs. Lebaudy. He alleges that the defendant ordered his arrest at that time, but that officers refused to arrest him.

"I did not commit the theft," says Grosjean. He obtained the order of arrest against Mr. Sudreau, he said, because he had learned that the defendant and his wife were going to live in France and that the former Mrs. Lebaudy had sold the contents of her Jamaica residence as a preliminary to establishing her home in France. Grosjean feared that unless Mr. Sudreau filed a bond any judgment that might be rendered against him would be uncollectable.

Actors Work New Year's Eve

Though a Sunday, Theaters Will Be Open; Proceeds to Charity

Though New Year's Eve comes on Sunday this year, New York will not be without entertainment, for virtually every theater in the city will give special performances, it was announced last night. Daniel Frohman, of the Producing Managers' Association, revealed that playhouses would be open, saying that he already had a special license permitting them to operate, providing the funds go to charity.

"This has all been arranged," he said, "and after all expenses are paid the receipts will be turned over to the Actors' Fund of America." The Actors' Equity and the Producing Managers' Association have agreed to the arrangement, which meets with the approval of Augustus Thomas, czar of the stage.

## StockExchangeCode Is of Highest Type, Westerfield Insists

Secretary of Library Committee Addresses Advertising Men at Their First Winter Luncheon

Jason Westerfield, secretary of the library committee of the New York Stock Exchange, in an address yesterday at the first winter luncheon of the American Association of Advertising Agencies at the Hotel Pennsylvania, said the Exchange was governed by a constitution, rules and unwritten code of business morality in advance of any business institution to be found anywhere.

Mr. Westerfield pointed out that members of the Exchange could have no interest in any given transaction above the commissions involved. Drawing a parallel with the methods of high class advertising practice, the speaker said that, like the American Association of Advertising Agencies, the Stock Exchange is an association which does not operate for profit and actually does no business. It neither buys nor sells stocks, but operates solely as a market place where many persons assemble to buy and sell securities.

"Singly headed," said Mr. Westerfield, "you men and the firms you are connected with would be unable to establish yourselves firmly in competition with the unscrupulous rivals. You

know that without the consolidated moral force of the high-minded men in your business, who are mobilized in this association, rebating, publicity promises and similar vicious practices would soon bring your business into disrepute."

Mr. Westerfield devoted part of his address to the Better Business Bureau of New York City, which was created last July as the outcome of a series of conferences between representatives of numerous business associations. "The New York Advertising Clubs gave this bureau birth and its present supporters include virtually every important financial and public utility group," Mr. Westerfield said. "The Better Business Bureau was not organized by Wall Street interests, as some persons appear to believe. This is evidenced by the fact that thirty-eight identical bureaus were functioning in various parts of the United States before the New York organization was effected."

"There is a class in New York which will testify to the bureau's efficiency. Even before there was general knowledge of the organization's existence its swift movement laid by the heels several groups of men who were exchanging beautifully engraved certificates for the public's hard cash. In a few months the work of this bureau has saved the public losses amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, discussing a constructive policy on the part of the public toward American railroads, urged that it be based on continuation of the policy under which the carriers now operate as provided for in the transportation act.

Despite inadequate earnings, Mr. Willard said, the railroads have continued to add to their facilities and to

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secure many millions of dollars in new capital, this was possible, he said, only because of public confidence inspired by the transportation act.

Rubles in P. C. Knox Estate  
PITTSBURGH, Dec. 14.—The inven-

tory of the estate of the late United States Senator P. C. Knox, filed here to-day, carries a total of \$1,193,977.32, based on the value of securities at the time of his death. The inventory lists 100,000 Russian rubles, which are appraised at \$350.



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